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Lebanon

A car-bomb explosion in the Burj al-Shamali area east of Tyre wounded 10 IDF soldiers on 5 February, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio. Beirut radio claimed that Israeli helicopters strafed a school in Tyre, "wounding more than 30 students." Further north, a car-bomb caused casualties in B'aqlin on 6 February, the radio announced.

Earlier, in remarks cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, Phalangist Party Leader Elie Karamah viewed the possible resurgence of an armed Palestinian presence in the refugee camps as "extremely grave," stressing the need for the Lebanese state to impose its authority over all those residing in Lebanon, including the Palestinian refugees.

Israel

Answering a Tehiya faction no-confidence motion on security in the territories, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said Amman has become a "center of planning and attacks" against Israel, IDF radio reported. The Knesset defeated the Tehiya no-confidence motion when only the Tehiya and KAKH Knesset members voted in favor, Jerusalem radio announced. In a related development, while Radio Monte Carlo noted PFLP and Fatah dissident movement statements claiming responsibility for killing the Israeli soldier in the Ramallah area on 4 February, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio maintained that one of "our brave revolutionaries" was responsible.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak called on Israel to show more flexibility on the issue of peace talks, MENA reported. Responding to Israeli criticisms of Egypt's efforts in this regard, Mubarak said that Egypt is also "not pleased" with Israel's efforts to resolve the problems obstructing peace. In subsequent remarks at a banquet in honor of visiting FRG President Richard von Weizsaecker, carried by MENA, Mubarak welcomed the "progress" resulting from the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue "in the last few days." Earlier, Mubarak expressed satisfaction over his talks with his FRG counterpart, though he noted that he had not yet received an FRG offer "guaranteeing the safety" of the nuclear reactor which the FRG will help finance and establish in Egypt, according to the agency.

Libya

The four Britons detained in Libya were released on 5 February in accordance with the Basic Popular Congresses' decisions, Tripoli radio announced.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes bombed two villages in southern Khuzestan Province on 3 and 5 February, according to an Iranian military communique reported by IRNA, again violating an agreement not to attack civilian areas. The communique also maintained that Iranian forces were able to "halt and suppress" a new Iraqi operation on Majnun Island on the night of 3-4 February.

Iran

Two "U.S. mercenary agents" hurled two handgrenades at the Foundation for the Oppressed building in northern Tehran on 6 February killing one and injuring two, according to an IRNA report.

Reported Explosion in Syria

Travelers arriving in Beirut from Syria reported that a "huge explosion" occurred near a garrison of the Syrian presidential guards in Dummar on 15 January, according to INA. Shots were also heard in the area, which was cordoned off, the travelers said.

Jordan

A royal decree appointed Culture Minister Tahir Hikmat acting information minister replacing Layla Sharaf, who resigned on 28 January. PETRA-JNA reported.

Sudan

During an ambush by Sudanese People's Liberaton Army (SPLA) forces near Cheibet on 2 February, 2 government soldiers were killed and 16 wounded, the clandestine SPLA radio reported.

Western Sahara

Forty Moroccan soldiers were killed and 45 were wounded, according to a Saharan Information Ministry statement reported by AFP, during attacks last week in the Mahbes area.

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PNC's Al-Za'nun Speaks on U.S. Policy, Jordan

PM071015 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 2 Feb 85 p 9

[Interview with PNC Deputy Speaker and Fatah Central Committee member Salim al-Za'nun by Mustafa Idris — date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Mustafa Idris] How do you assess the Arab situation after the PNC session and what chances are there for any movement?

[Salim al-Za'nun] The Arab world is in disarray. In absence of the right circumstances for holding an Arab summit conference we are finding it difficult to address the international community to request implementation of UN and the Fes summit resolutions. The Palestinian leadership believes that the Fes plan, which was unanimously approved by the Arabs, is the plan we should concentrate on in our future political moves.

[Idris] In view of recent U.S. activity in the region and Secretary of State Shultz' statements reaffirming U.S. commitment to peace efforts in the area, do you expect a different U.S. move on the Palestinian question and, consequently, a different U.S. way of dealing with the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people?

[Al-Za'nun] Under Carter's administration the Americans and Soviets acknowledged the Palestinian people's rights, albeit in a not entirely satisfactory manner, and the 1977 U.S.-Soviet declaration was issued. However, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan flew to Washington and fought his 6-hour battle with Carter, resulting in the cancellation of that declaration. That showed to what extent Israel influences whatever role the United States might play.

[Idris] Do you not believe that the recent [Israeli] withdrawal from Lebanon was due to U.S. pressure to prove Washington's credibility?

[Al-Za'nun] The United States is still opposed to an international conference to settle the Middle East conflict. This is evidence of the U.S. position regarding means of settling the conflict. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy said recently that the United States is in favor of bilateral direct negotiations with Israel, something which the Palestinians reject.

[Idris] Does King Husayn's current Arab tour mean that the Jordanian-Palestinian consultations have reached the stage of defining the final points pertaining to whatever steps are to be taken in the future?

[Al-Za'nun] The Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue committee has not completed its work yet but the claim that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are cool is untrue. Our relations with Jordan are good and improving. Let us be logical. To this day the dialogue committee has not managed to produce a formula for PLO-Jordanian future moves.

[Idris] Could we say that there is some kind of a Jordanian-Palestinian common concept?

[Al-Za'nun] I cannot answer that question now.

[Idris] Palestinian military action is playing a smaller part in the efforts to settle the Palestinian question, whereas political action amounts to 90 percent of these efforts. Since political action is the alternative to military action, what political achievements are likely to be made on Arab and international levels?

[Al-Za'nun] The fact that the Palestinian leadership is making political efforts does not mean that there is no other option. Political efforts are at present being given more scope and priority over military action because of the present circumstances but it has always been our aim to give military action an effective role in the restoration of usurped rights.

[Idris] What role could Egypt play in the present circumstances?

[Al-Za'nun] Our aim is to help Egypt get rid of the Camp Davidchains. We believe in a positive method of tackling the Egyptian position. The Arab states have declared that only an Arab summit conference can discuss Egypt's return, lay down the conditions, and define the rights and duties in this connection.

[Idris] Are there any problems in the present PNC, in its new formation after the Amman session, regarding certain Palestinian steps with Jordan?

[Al-Za'nun] All those who attended the session support the resolutions regarding ways of dealing with Jordan and Egypt. Those who did not attend hold various views. Some of them refuse to deal with Egypt and others believe that relations with Egypt should be at a lesser degree. What is important is that the Palestinian people have a parliament and the minority must go along with the majority. Opposition is legitimate within the PNC.

[Idris] Did 'Arafat carry new ideas during his tour which followed the PNC session?

[Al-Za'nun] Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat] has been explaining what happened at the PNC and has been urging the Arab brothers to make a move to end the Iraq-Iran war and pave the way for an Arab summit conference that would make us all capable of confronting Israeli designs.

PLO Statement Supports Ethiopia Against Eritrea

JN071251 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Feb 85

[Text] The PLO office in Addis Ababa has issued a statement saying that the PLO condemns the insurgence that has been disturbing the Eritrean region in the northern part of Ethiopia for 24 years. The statement describes the revolutionaries in this region as rebels and terrorists. It adds that the PLO reaffirms its absolute support for Ethiopia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and revolution.

This statement was issued following the Ethiopian foreign minister's surprise at the presence of a PLO representative at a Khartoum meeting of three Eritrean liberation movements.

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'Arafat Meets With Palestinians in Amman

JN121932 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Upon his arrival in Amman yesterday, brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] held a meeting which was attended by Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian forces; Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, PNC speaker; Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member; and Jawid al-Ghusayn, PLO Executive Committee member. Our radio correspondent learned that during the meeting they discussed all developments in the Palestinian arena and the formula of the Palestinian-Jordanian joint move.

Abu 'Ammar then presided over a mini-meeting of the PLO Executive Committee. The meeting was attended by the Executive Committee members who were in Amman.

Returns From Amman

LD121816 Tunis TAP in French 1320 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Tunis, 12 Feb (TAP) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat returned to Tunis from Amman today at the end of a 2-day visit to Jordan. This was learned from a Palestinian source in the Tunisian capital.

Talks between the head of the Palestinian organization, King Husayn, and high-ranking Jordanian officials were sanctioned by a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on joint action on the international scene and solving the Middle East crisis.

It is reported that the agreement, announced today by 'Arafat, shortly before his departure from Amman, constitutes the successful outcome of lengthy discussions and concerted actions between Palestinian and Jordanian leaders.

'Arafat Speaks at Poet's Memorial Meeting

LD131103 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Excerpts] A few days ago, Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] attended a eulogy for Palestinian martyr poet Mu'in Busaysu and delivered an important speech. He began by recalling the many times he spent with Busaysu. They are memories of the revolution, the struggle, and the long march.

Abu 'Ammar said: We are passing through difficult historic times. Our destiny is to coexist with these sufferings and difficulties. However, I want to say that we are implementing the decision of the PNC to escalate military action against the Zionist enemy. Abu 'Ammar pointed out that for the first time the Zionists have admitted the role the Palestinians played in these operations. He added: I am saying this because the Zionist enemy is now surrounding our Palestinian camps in retaliation for the fedayeen operations, particularly those carried out by our revolutionaries among the joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces a few days ago at the Burj al-Shamali camp. This prompted the enemy to storm the camp for 2 days.

Abu 'Ammar said: I am now disclosing these matters because the Arab information media tried to suppress these facts as part of the campaign of slander and strikes against the Palestinians and have claimed that the revolution is 4,000 km away from the frontline. However, I say: When we were in Tripoli, we faced a dual blockade. Then we left Tripoli after having departed from Beirut. Who then, was the Arab Sharon who forced me out of Tripoli?

Abu 'Ammar recalled the plots hatched against the Palestine revolution since our departure from Beirut. He said: The dagger that stabbed us this time was that of our brothers. They tried to complete what Sharon failed to accomplish in Beirut instead of trying to bandage the wounds of the Palestine revolution.

Abu 'Ammar added: These daggers are not Arab at all, because they came from a regime that became an agent for U.S. imperialism and for its representative, Zionism, just as the Sadat regime was an agent of U.S. imperialism and a Zionist agent. Abu 'Ammar then spoke of what he called the draw imposed by the Arabs during the 1973 war with the Zionist enemy. He said the Arabs did not score a victory in this war, but scored a draw from which our Soviet friends and allies subsequently succeeded in wresting the American-Soviet joint statement of 1 October 1977. For the first time this contained an American concession represented by recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestine people and its representative.

Abu 'Ammar added: We were preparing ourselves to preserve the political military draw that was established between the Arabs and the Zionist enemy, which is an extension and an ally of U.S. imperialism in our Arab area. Abu 'Ammar affirmed that the Palestine revolution was stabbed twice: first, when Al-Sadat stabbed us in the back by visiting occupied Jerusalem and beginning the Camp David talks, thus robbing the Arabs of their victory. Sinai returned to us but with incomplete sovereignty and a rule which, according to the Zionist line of thought, is worse than the Zionist occupation itself.

Abu 'Ammar said: Since then we have fought long and hard battles. After this ordeal, I affirmed that the strategic depth of the Palestine revolution extends from Tyre to Khorassan. However, I still recall what late Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito told me when I visited him accompanied by Brother Abu al-Lutf on 5 December 1974. He said that when he had met a few days earlier with U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Kissinger affirmed that the Rabat conference resolutions turned American calculations upside down and he threatened that he could not allow such a situation in the Middle East, in light of the American calculations.

In recalling these facts, I wish to affirm that the Zionist enemy would not have dared to commit aggression if it had not been for the Iraqi-Iranian war which prevented our prowess being used against our enemy. It would not have been possible to take on the Palestine revolution alone if Camp David had not taken place and Egypt departed.

Abu 'Ammar said that allowing the Palestine revolution to be tackled alone was the second crime committed against it. The first crime was Camp David.

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Regional Papers Detail Jordanian-PLO Agreement

Kuwait's AL-ANBA'

LD131343 Kuwait KUNA in English 1239 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 13 (KUNA) — A Kuwaiti daily newspaper published Wednesday the contents of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on a joint approach toward peace in the Middle East, announced in Amman last Monday.

AL-ANBA' unveiling the "contents, not the exact wording" of the agreement, said the eight-point agreement endorsed bartering peace for lands and called for holding an international peace conference in which all parties concerned, including the PLO, in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, take part.

The agreement, reached by King Husayn and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat after months of deliberations, also endorsed the Rabat and Fes Arab summit conferences' resolutions as well as all resolutions adopted by all Arab summits as basis for the joint approach.

The two sides accept all resolutions of the United Nations concerning the Palestinian crisis, the Palestinian people and the Arab-Israeli conflict, but with stress on the restoration of all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, according to the paper.

The fifth article of the agreement calls for applying all U.N. resolutions concerning the Palestinian refugees, which indicate their right to return to their homeland or receive compensations, the paper said adding that the sixth point is stressing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The seventh and the eighth points of the agreement, which are probably the most important, are calling for "working for the establishment of an independent Palestinian (?state) within the framework of a confederation with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan," and "the PLO's participation within an Arab delegation in the peace negotiations."

According to *AL-ANBA'* King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, who is currently in Washington on an official visit, has helped in solving two main problems which had been obstructing concluding the agreement.

The paper explained that King Husayn had demanded not to insist on the independent Palestinian state in the seventh article, arguing that this should be left for the PLO and Jordan to agree on away from the international interference.

King Husayn also demanded the cancellation of the word "Arab" in the eighth point which calls for the PLO participation in peace negotiations within a joint Arab delegation. King Husayn, according to the paper, said Syria and Lebanon's participation in peace negotiations was "impossible."

The paper however, did not elaborate on how King Fahd had resolved those two problems, but said the Saudi monarch had sent a message to 'Arafat telling him "he feels unable to ask any specific thing from Reagan (the U.S. President) in light of the Jordanian-Palestinian differences." The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement has been declared shortly before King Fahd's meeting with Reagan last Monday.

The paper said it has learnt that Egypt, Iraq and Algeria had conveyed to Jordan and the PLO their approval of the joint approach agreed on by the two sides. Egypt has officially welcomed the accord, but Iraq and Algeria did not announce their official reaction. King Husayn has arrived in Algiers last night and met with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid for talks, reportedly on the recent agreement. According to press reports King Husayn is seeking the support of Algeria to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian approach before the visit Bendjedid is intending to make to Washington next April.

Kuwait's AL-QABAS

GF131454 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 12 Feb 85 pp 1, 23

[Dispatch from Amman by *AL-QABAS* correspondent 'Abdallah al-'Utum]

[Excerpt] King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat have hammered out a nine-point joint political formula to reach a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

During a 4-hour meeting that took place between the Jordanian monarch and the Palestinian leaders at Al-Nadwah Palace, the two sides discussed developments in the Palestinian issue in the occupied territories on the international level and agreed on a joint Palestinian-Jordanian formula designed to attain a just settlement of the Palestinian issue. No details on the agreement have been released. An official source at the royal court said that Husayn and 'Arafat agreed on the formula for the joint move.

AL-QABAS has learned that the agreement comprises nine points and was delivered to the adviser of the Egyptian president, Usamah al-Baz, who in turn will convey it to President Husni Mubarak. Saudi King Fahd was also apprised of the text of the agreement in Washington. It was learned that the agreement calls for the formation of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to take part in any peace negotiations and includes a commitment to all international resolutions and the Fes summit resolutions. The agreement also includes a Palestinian acceptance of the proposal made by King Husayn to amend Resolution 242 to include the PLO. The agreement vaguely tackles the question of the borders of the occupied territories. It includes approval of the issue of confederation.

Palestinians React to Jordanian-PLO Agreement

PLO's Qaddumi

JN131810 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] When we asked Faruq Qaddumi his opinion on the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat in his capacity as head of the PLO Political Department and member of Fatah Central Committee, he said

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'Arafat Receives Messages From USSR, Nicaragua

From USSR

JN141707 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received a message from the Soviet leadership dealing with the USSR's efforts to bolster the Palestinian people's struggle. The message was conveyed by the USSR ambassador in Tunis when he was received by Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar in Tunis.

Our correspondent has learned that Abu 'Ammar gave the ambassador a reply message to the Soviet leadership dealing with the Middle East situation and developments in the Arab and Palestinian arenas.

From Nicaragua

PA142142 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0054 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Tunis, 13 Feb (EFE) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has sent Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat a message in which he broaches the situation in Latin America, particularly in Nicaragua.

According to the Palestinian news agency WAFA, the message was handed to the president of the PLO by Nicaragua Transportation Minister Mario Terina [title as received] in Tunis.

PLO sources told EFE that details on the Nicaraguan minister's visit to Tunis have not been released but that he is not expected to meet with any Tunisian Government official.

This is the third time in less than a year that a Nicaraguan transportation minister has visited Tunisia to deliver messages from Daniel Ortega to the Palestinian leader.

The first visit by Transportation Minister Carlos Zarruck, took place last June, and the second in September.

Gulf Papers Cite 'Text' of Jordanian-PLO Agreement

Kuwait's AL-ANBA'

GF141432 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 13 Feb 85 pp 1, 26

["Text" of agreement signed by King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat on a joint Jordanian-Palestinian political plan]

[Text] *AL-ANBA'* has obtained the "text" of the agreement betweenKing Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat on a joint Jordanian-Palestinian political plan for the following stage, in an effort to seek a political solution to the Palestinian issue. The following is the complete text of the agreement, although it may not be word for word. The agreement contains an introduction saying:

Realizing the seriousness of this stage, the responsibility they bear toward the homeland and the people of the occupied territories, and the serious circumstances threatening the Palestinian people's fate, the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO have agreed to work jointly within the following framework:

1. Land in exchange for peace.

2. They call for an international conference to discuss the issue from all sides providing that all concerned parties participate including the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

3. The two sides base their joint efforts on the resolutions of the Rabat and Fes conferences and all the Arab summit meetings on the issue.

4. The two sides announce that they accept all UN resolutions on the Palestinian issue, the Palestinian people, and the Arab-Israeli conflict, but stress the restoration of all occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem.

5. They insist on the application of all UN resolutions concerning the Palestinian refugees (namely, their right of return or compensation).

6. They insist on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

7. Work to be done on establishing an independent Palestinian state within the framework of a confederation with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

8. The PLO participates in peace negotiations within a joint Arab delegation.

There was a difference of opinion between King Husayn and the PLO officials on two points of this agreement: the independent Palestinian state and the joint Arab delegation. King Husayn wanted it to read the establishment of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation without mentioning the expression "an independent Palestinian state." He wanted a Jordanian-PLO agreement on this issue away from international attention, on the premise that the United States will not agree on the move if Jordan insists on the expression of "independent state."

The other point of contention was the expression "joint Arab delegation." King Husayn insisted that the word "Arab" should be omitted, because a move within a joint Arab delegation would necessitate the inclusion of Syria and Lebanon which is unlikely or indeed impossible for Syria, let alone both Syria and Lebanon.

It seems that the differences on these two points were resolved following a message received by Yasir 'Arafat from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in which he said that he would be unable to request anything from President Reagan in the shadow of Jordanian-Palestinian differences. Accordingly, the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement was announced the day before yesterday (11 February 1985) shortly before King Fahd's discussions began in Washington. These were the last few hours left before the start of discussions because of the time difference with Washington (approximately 8 hours).

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MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 FEBRUARY 1985

Iran-Iraq War

The Iraqi Air Force hit a "large maritime target" near Khark Island on 27 February, Iraq announced in an official statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio. Earlier, Lloyds of London revealed that three "unidentified" planes attacked a Greek oil tanker heading toward Dubayy that day, according to KUNA. The agency noted that the aircraft used guns rather than rockets or missiles.

Egypt-Israel

Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, affirmed Israel's support "without any qualification" for "direct" negotiations in Cairo with either a Jordanian or a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that does not include PLO representatives. This follows Peres' 27 February meeting with Egyptian presidential envoy 'Abd al-Halim Badawi who conveyed a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on promoting the peace process, IDF radio stated. Meanwhile, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said at a Hague news conference that Egypt's initiative is aimed at influencing the United States to approach the PLO, adding that the Egyptians are primarily interested in a meeting between Jordan, the Palestinians, and the United States, Jerusalem radio reported.

President Mubarak has asked Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid to formulate an "integrated plan" for backing the Jordanian-Palestinian move, according to Cairo radio. Mubarak believes that a dialogue between a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the United States to prepare for "expanded negotiations" must be the next move, the radio noted.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad discussed "all aspects" of the Middle East situation during talks with visiting PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Damascus radio reported. In an arrival statement carried by SANA, the South Yemeni leader praised Syria's "cohesion" with the Palestinian revolution, and sharply criticized the PLO-Jordanian agreement as an "infringement" of the Palestinian people's right to return and to statehood. The Amman agreement also ignores PNC resolutions and undermines efforts to restore PLO unity, he contended.

The PLO-Jordanian agreement was likewise denounced in a statement issued by Arab communist and labor parties at the end of their conference in Damascus. According to SANA, the statement said the agreement proves that the PLO's "rightist leadership led by Yasir 'Arafat" is pursuing a policy that has "greatly harmed" the Palestinian cause.

In a separate development, two Syrians expelled from West Berlin were responsible for hijacking a Frankfurt-Damascus flight to Vienna in an attempt to obtain political asylum in Austria, according to DPA. The hijackers surrendered after failing to achieve their demands.

Lebanon

Israeli military sources described a 27 February incident between the IDF and the Lebanese Army as a "mistake," Jerusalem television reported. An Israeli tank had fired a warning shell at Lebanese soldiers near Al-Nabatiyah after the latter fired at IDF soldiers who were chasing a group of "terrorists," according to the television. Meanwhile, SANA reported that the Syrian foreign minister said his country will not leave Lebanon to face Israel alone, a statement which Jerusalem television viewed as a reaction to the IDF-Lebanese firing incident.

As for the current tension between Israel and UNIFIL, the latter is "extremely disturbed" by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's harsh criticisms of the French contingent, a UNIFIL spokesman disclosed in remarks cited by AFP. The French Government summoned the Israeli ambassador to the Quai d'Orsay to protest Rabin's remarks, which it considers as "inadmissible," according to Paris radio. Nevertheless, the ambassador subsequently announced that the incident caused by Rabin's remarks had been "settled," Jerusalem radio reported.

Iran

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi discussed bilateral cooperation with PRC State Councillor Zhang Jingfu during the latter's visit to Iran, IRNA reported.

Western Sahara

Saharan Information Ministry statements, reported by Algiers radio and APS, claimed that the Saharan Liberation Army killed 42 Moroccan soldiers and wounded 67 others during attacks near Bu Craa on 25 and 26 February. Meanwhile, a Polisario Front spokesman in Madrid expressed regret over the shooting down of a German D-228 plane on 24 February, noting that this is the same type of plane used by Moroccans for military reconnaissance, according to Madrid radio.

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